Protection of Pachyderm

1369. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EN VIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: -

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a seminar on protection of Pachyderm, organized in Guwahati on January 19, 2002 by the coordinating organization of Non-Govemment Organizations, involved in conservation of Forests, Wildlife and Environment (CONGOFORM):

(b) if so, what factors were identifed as responsible for mutual intolerance between the Pachyderm and Homo-sapiens;

(c) what recommendations and suggestions were made to protect and promote this sapiens; and

(d) the latest figure of elephant population in the country and how much of it is in Assam and in other North-Eastem States?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The latest estimates indicate that there are over 28,000 elephants in the country, of which about 5300 are in Assam and 3600 in other North-Eastem States.

Dumping of plastic waste

1370. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been a favoured ground for dumping of plastic wastes;

(b) whether Denmark and other countries had been sending illegally plastic waste to India for recycling; if so, whether any action has been taken against those countries; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any law banning such dumping of plastic waste; and

(d) if not, whether Government would take action to frame a law to ban dumping of plastic waste; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Import of plastic wastes/scrap is regulated by the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 and the Public Notice No. 392 (PN)/92-97 dated 1st January, 1997 issued by the Ministry of Commerce. As per the notification and notice, except PET waste/scrap, import of all types of plastic wastes/scrap is permitted against a license issued by the Director General, Foreign Trade.

In respect of 100% Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZ) the concerned Board of Approval is required to keep the Public Notice in view before grant of approval for imports.

Non-compliance of National regulations by companies in Denmark with regard to export of plastic wastes and scrap to India has been brought to the notice of the Government.

The Public Notice permits of plastic wastes/scrap conforming to specifications laid down in the notice to actual users only. *Inter-alia* such actual users are required to possess facility for recycling such scrap/waste.

Indian Board for Wildlife

1371. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4326, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August, 2001 and state:

(a) the decision taken at the recently held meeting of Indian Board for Wildlife; and

(b) the steps taken to implement those decisions?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Indian Board for Wild Life at its meeting held on 21st January, 2002 recommended that wild life and forestry should be declared as priority sector at the National level. The details of the Wild Life Conversation Strategy 2002 adopted by the Board are at Statement-I *(See below)* The Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-2016 was also approved at this meeting. The salient features of the plan are at Statement-II. *(See below)*

(b) The "Wildlife Conversation Strategy-2002" and the Wildlife Action Plan 2002-2016 have been sent to the Chief Secretaries of the States and Union terriotries for compliance. These have also been taken up with the Planning Commission for facilitating early implementation.